



A Fall Wedding

at BIRCHWOOD MANOR



**Colleen
Fitzgerald
& Chris
Magnani**

Chris and I both moved to Hoboken in 2007 and met in 2008 at a bar called the Mile Square. We dated for two and a half years before we got engaged. We always had fun when we were together, whether at home cooking a new recipe and spending time with our rescued dogs Jax and Benny, or traveling and trying new restaurants. We went to Giants football games, and now that Chris is at Notre Dame University, we also support Notre Dame football together. Chris is completing a one-year MBA program and I work as a registered dietitian. We plan to return to the New York City area upon his completion.



For his proposal, Chris planned a trip to Lake George, New York over Labor Day weekend. We watched the fireworks from a boat ride, and when we returned, Chris suggested we sit in a gazebo overlooking the lake. That's where Chris got down on one knee and proposed.

We both wanted a fall wedding because we love the season and its beautiful colors. When we looked at Birchwood Manor in Whippany, New Jersey, we fell in love with the gorgeous ballroom with its mirrored walls and hand-painted frescoes and their lovely outdoor gazebo. We worked with Robert Lisciandro, the banquet manager, who helped

CEREMONY: *St. Mark's Church*
RECEPTION: *Birchwood Manor*
GOWN: *Jasmine*
BRIDESMAIDS: *Alfred Angelo*
TUX: *Dante Zeller*
MAKEUP & HAIR: *Glamorous by Jennifer Rose*
FLORIST: *Greenway Flowers*
CAKE: *Birchwood Manor*
PHOTOGRAPHER: *Craig Collins Photography*
BAND: *The Silk Band from Time Machine Entertainment*



us choose the menu and plan every detail, big and small, of the night.

We had a beautiful church ceremony. Our wedding party had seven bridesmaids and six groomsmen, including Chris's sister and our close friends. My sisters were the maids of honor and Chris's brother was the best man. For the cocktail hour in the Greenery room we had turkey and corned beef carving stations and two pasta stations with lobster ravioli and sausage and eggplant fusilli. There were passed hors d'oeuvres like Cantonese egg rolls and potato pancakes with cinnamon applesauce as well as a large variety of hot and cold food like Swedish meatballs and roasted red pepper and garlic cream cheese cones.



Birchwood Manor
973.887.1414, birchwoodmanor.com

In the ballroom, we went for a romantic, classic theme with dark purple and silver as our primary colors. The floral arrangements had different shades of purple and pink flowers. My bouquet was mostly white with soft pink roses incorporated. For dinner we chose a mesclun salad to start and a choice of prime rib au jus, stuffed chicken, or grilled salmon. Birchwood used a picture I gave them to create a delicious tiered canoli wedding cake with the exact design I wanted. It was served with vanilla ice cream in an almond tuille cup and a chocolate-covered strawberry.

We wanted our wedding to be really fun for all our guests, and we think we succeeded. The band sang all night and even got on the dance floor to dance with guests. We also had a photo booth, and the pictures were put into our guest book so people could write a personal message for us. We would like to thank all our friends and family who came to celebrate with us and Robert and the staff at Birchwood, who helped us make our wedding day a blast for everyone.

